cover all rural BPL families and a majority of rural APL families unlike other severely affected States where foodgrains were allocated to provide employment to 50% rural BPL house-holds. On this basis, in addition to the release of entire Central share of CRF for 2002-03 and 2003-04, amounting to Rs.350.88 crores, assistance from NCCF amounting to Rs.889.61 crores was released to Rajasthan for the drought 2002-03. 31.10 lakh MTs of foodgrains costing Rs.3110 crores was allocated to the State free of cost. The assistance provided is till the end of July,2003.

Besides Railways have been providing free transportation of water and fodder in the State.

Agricultural Employment Generation

572. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Agriculture is in the state of crisis as there is a stagnation of agricultural Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and fall in per capita GDP in agriculture in recent years;

(b) whether the agricultural employment generation has considerably declined in the last decade;

(c) whether this is due to the neo-liberal reforms introduced in the early 1990's; and

(d) if so, the action Government propose to take to encourage agricultural employment generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):(a) As may be seen from the following table, the GDP in agriculture and allied sectors at constant prices during the last five years registered a decline only in one year *i.e.* 2002-03. The decline in 2002-03 reflects the sharp decline in agricultural production on account of drought in several parts of the country.

Gross Domestic Product at constant (1993-94) prices

(Rs. in crore)

1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
442494	461964	478468	522583	516020

(b) to (d) According to the 55th Round of the quinquennial Survey on employment and unemployment (July 1999-June 2000) conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), the estimated number of employed persons, based on current daily status, in the Agriculture Sector increased marginally from 190.72 million in 1993-94 to 190.94 million in 1999-2000. According to Planning Commission's Report of Special Group on Targeting Ten Million Employment Opportunities Per Year over the Tenth Plan period, the potential of additional employment generation from different programmes and schemes in the Agriculture Sector is 3.55 million man-years by the end of Tenth Plan.

Compensation to drought hit farmers by CACP

573. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) to recommend to pay the compensation in cash and other forms to the farmers, in view of drought;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the farmers from whom Union Government do not purchase grains at all would be deprived from getting this benefit, in case the Commission announces bonus apart from MSP; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):(a) No, Sir.

(b) The Government decides on Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for various agricultural commodities taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices